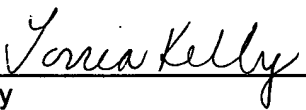


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IFW

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**IN RE PATENT APPLICATION OF:** SCARTH, G.B., et al

**SERIAL NO:** 10/618,582

**ART UNIT:** 2874

**FILING DATE:** 15 July 2003

**EXAMINER:** PAK, Sung H.

**Customer No:** 29382

**Confirmation No:** 6889

**SUBJECT:** METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR OPERATING A PLURALITY OF  
ELECTRONIC VARIABLE OPTICAL ATTENUATORS (eVOAs)

**ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C., 20231, U.S.A.**

**Dear Sir:**

**RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION**

This is a response to the First Office Action mailed on 7 June 2005. Applicants thank the Examiner for the detailed report and request that this application be amended in the following manner:

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**REMARKS / ARGUMENTS** begin on page 12 of this paper.

